South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management 1362 McMillan Avenue, Suite 400 Charleston, South Carolina 29405 and

Charleston District, Army Corps of Engineers 69-A Hagood Avenue Charleston, South Carolina 29403

# June 3, 2015 Joint Permit Application Public Notice

## Town of Edisto Beach, 2015-00528

The Department has received an application for a permit for the alteration of a critical area. The application was submitted pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act (Act 123) of 1977 South Carolina General Assembly. The application in brief, is described as follows:

LOCATION:

On and adjacent to Atlantic Ocean at North end of the Edisto Beach State Park Campground to Edisto Street near the South

Edisto River Inlet, Edisto Beach, Colleton County, South Carolina.

WORK:

The work as proposed consists of beach re-nourishment & groin lengthening. The applicant proposes to place 835, 000 cubic yards of beach quality sediment, via hydraulic dredge, along the ocean facing shoreline and lengthening up to 26 groins to a cumulative total of 1,765'. The overall project length is 19, 000'. The exact volume of nourishment sand will depend on the final groin lengthening plan available within the Town's budget at the time of construction. The applicant proposes to borrow sand from the northern shoal of the South Edisto River Inlet. More specific details are available in the attached joint public notice. The work as described is for beach and dune restoration and preservation.

This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons and agencies to assist in developing facts on which a decision by the Department can be based. Comments concerning the proposed work must be submitted in writing, setting forth sufficient detail to furnish a clear understanding of the reasons for support or opposition.

Comments regarding this application must be received by the Department on or before <u>July 3, 2015</u>. For more information, please contact: Fred Mallett at 843-953-0236 or via email at malletfe@dhec.sc.gov.

NOTE: Plans depicting the proposed work are available and will be provided upon receipt of a written request or may be viewed on the Department website at <a href="http://www.scdhec.gov/Apps/Environment/PublicNotices">http://www.scdhec.gov/Apps/Environment/PublicNotices</a>.

### JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE

# CHARLESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS 69A Hagood Avenue Charleston, South Carolina 29403-5107

THE S.C. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL
Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management
1362 McMillan Avenue, Suite 400
Charleston, South Carolina 29405

REGULATORY DIVISION

Refer to: P/N # -2015-00528

June 1, 2015

Pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), and the South Carolina Coastal Zone Management Act (48-39-10 et.seq.), an application has been submitted to the Department of the Army and the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control by

TOWN OF EDISTO BEACH C/O: STEVEN TRAYNUM COASTAL SCIENCE & ENGINEERING PO BOX 8056 COLUMBIA, SC 29202

for a permit to construct a beach nourishment and groin-lengthening project adjacent to the

#### **ATLANTIC OCEAN**

located from the north end of the Edisto Beach State Park Campground to Edisto Street near the South Edisto River Inlet in Edisto Beach, Colleton County, South Carolina (Western terminus Latitude: 32.4774527, Longitude: -80.3365 to Latitude: 32.5033, Longitude: -80.2951).

In order to give all interested parties an opportunity to express their views

#### NOTICE

is hereby given that written statements regarding the proposed work will be received by the **Corps** until

15 Days from the Date of this Notice,

from those interested in the activity and whose interests may be affected by the proposed work.

The proposed work consists of beach nourishment and groin lengthening along Edisto Beach, South Carolina. In detail the applicant proposes the placement via hydraulic dredge of up to

835,000 cubic yards (cy) of beach-quality sediment along the ocean-facing shoreline and lengthening of up to 26 groins to a cumulative total of 1,765 linear feet (If). The overall project length is ~19,000 lf. The exact volume of nourishment sand will depend on the final groin lengthening plan available within the Town's budget at time of construction. At a minimum, sufficient nourishment volume will be placed in each upcoast groin cell to exceed the trapping capacity of any lengthened groin. The applicant proposed to borrow sand from the northern shoal of the South Edisto River Inlet. The approximate areas of impact include ~13 acres above mean high water and ~244 acres below mean high water (including the borrow and beach fill areas). The fill berm will be placed at +7 ft NAVD to match the local dry-beach elevation. A low dune with the top at +10 ft NAVD (approximately equal to the FEMA 10-Year still-water flood elevation) may be built in areas lacking any dune features at the time of construction (potentially in groin cells 1-8). Due to the relatively coarse sands present along Edisto Beach, the natural beach slope is steeper than most beaches in South Carolina. The constructed slope will be built at 1 on 12 between the +7ft berm and MHW. Following construction, waves will distribute nourishment sand across the full beach profile into a natural configuration. Excess sand may be placed in cells requiring groin lengthening to facilitate groin construction.

The borrow areas and location of sediment borings are shown on Sheet 08. Borrow Area A consists of a 3,000 x 1,500 ft area (103.3 acres) adjacent to and seaward of the borrow area used in 2006 (measuring 3,200 x 1,000 ft). Borrow Area B is 1,000 x 1,800 ft (41.3 acres) and includes a majority of the borrow area used in the 2006 project. The proposed dredge limit is -16 ft MLLW (-19.5 ft NAVD), which is consistent with the limits in 2006. A 1-foot over-dredge depth will be included in the project specifications. Approximately 1,440,000 cy of beach compatible material is available in Borrow Area A based on a survey completed in August 2014. The proposed borrow area includes excess volume in order to allow for losses during pumping as well as to allow the dredge the opportunity to move if isolated pockets of poor sediment are encountered.

The work is expected to be accomplished via hydraulic (cutterhead) dredge outside of sea turtle nesting season. The dredge would cut into the borrow area from the South Edisto River and sand would be pumped to the beach via a submerged pipeline. A booster pump may be required to provide sufficient power to reach the northern fill limits. Once sand reaches the shore, it will be spread to the design template by bulldozers. Various equipment typical of beach nourishment projects will be used throughout the project, including loaders, 4x4 vehicles, delivery trucks, survey vessels, barges, and tugs. Equipment will be restricted from vegetated areas to the maximum extent practicable.

The applicant also proposes to lengthen up to 26 groins a cumulative total of 1,765 linear feet using steel, aluminum, or vinyl composite sheet piles. Each 20 ft pile will be driven to the established grade and capped with a concrete cap set with a top elevation of -1 ft to -2 ft NAVD. Armor stone will be placed around the sheet piles to provide scour protection. A connection consisting of formed and poured concrete or grouted stone will be installed to link the existing groin to the new sheet pile extension to make a continuous structure. The slope of the extension will be determined by the length of each extension and the existing profile of each groin, but will seek to match the native beach to the maximum extent practicable (generally 1 on 15 to 1 on 20). Per state regulations, enough sand to meet or exceed the trapping capacity of each extension will be placed into the updrift (north) groin cell of any lengthened groin. For the maximum 100 ft individual groin lengthening, ~15,000 cy of sand is required in each applicable cell to meet the trapping capacity of the extension. If all groins are lengthened to the maximum distance provided in Sheet 04, the total trapping volume is ~221,000 cy.

The loose stone on Groins 29- 32 will be restacked and grouted to make a monolithic

structure. This restacking and re-grouting will be conducted if sufficient funds are available.

The applicant is not proposing mitigation at this time due to the restorative nature of the project. Benefits of the project include restored and expanded habitat for sea turtles and beach flora and fauna, protection of structures, improved aesthetics, and improved recreational opportunity. Impacts of beach nourishment projects are well understood and, when designed properly and the site allows, limited to temporary impacts to the immediate beach and borrow area.

The purpose of the proposed project is for beach and dune restoration and preservation, including: restoring a recreational beach, restoring protective dunes, extending longevity of nourishment sand and increasing the renourishment interval, and protecting park infrastructure and maintaining revenues dependent on park attendance. The project is similar in scope to the recently conducted Edisto Beach Storm Damage Reduction Project completed by USACE and sponsored by the Town of Edisto Beach. However this project will not involve federal funds.

NOTE: This public notice and associated plans are available on the Corps' website at: <a href="http://www.sac.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices">http://www.sac.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices</a>. For those unable to access the website, a copy of this notice and the associated plans will be provided, upon receipt of a written request. The request must identify the project of interest by public notice number and a self-addressed stamped envelope must also be provided for mailing the drawings to you. Your request for drawings should be addressed to the

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ATTN: REGULATORY DIVISION 69A Hagood Avenue Charleston, South Carolina 29403-5107

The District Engineer has concluded that the discharges associated with this project, both direct and indirect, should be reviewed by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control in accordance with provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. As such, this notice constitutes a request, on behalf of the applicant, for certification that this project will comply with applicable effluent limitations and water quality standards. The work shown on this application must also be certified as consistent with applicable provisions the Coastal Zone Management Program (15 CFR 930). This activity may also require evaluation for compliance with the S. C. Construction in Navigable Waters Permit Program. State review, permitting and certification is conducted by the S. C. Department of Health and Environmental Control. The District Engineer will not process this application to a conclusion until such certifications are received. The applicant is hereby advised that supplemental information may be required by the State to facilitate the review.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Implementation of the proposed project would impact approximately 170.6 acres of subtidal ocean bottom and approximately 87 acres of adjacent intertidal beach utilized by various life stages of species comprising the shrimp, and snapper-grouper management complexes. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial individual or cumulative adverse impact on EFH or fisheries managed by the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the NMFS.

Pursuant to the Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended), the Corps

has reviewed the Biological Opinion issued by the USFWS on January 31, 2014, and revised on March 14, 2014, for the federal study conducted by the Corps for the Edisto Beach Storm Damage Reduction Project. Based upon this report, the District Engineer has determined that the project is not likely to adversely affect (NLAA) the Leatherback Sea Turtle, Piping Plover, Red Knot, or West Indian Manatee or result in the destruction or adverse modification of designated or proposed critical habitat. The project is likely to adversely affect (LAA) the Loggerhead Sea Turtle. This public notice serves as a request for written concurrence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service on this determination.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), this public notice also constitutes a request to Indian Tribes to notify the District Engineer of any historic properties of religious and cultural significance to them that may be affected by the proposed undertaking.

In accordance with the NHPA, the District Engineer has consulted the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places for the presence or absence of registered properties, or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein and initially determined that no historic properties, nor properties eligible for inclusion in the National Register, are present; therefore, there will be no effect on historic properties. This public notices serves as a request for concurrence within 30 days from the SHPO (and/or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer).

The District Engineer's final eligibility and effect determination will be based upon coordination with the SHPO and/or THPO, as appropriate and required, and with full consideration given to the proposed undertaking's potential direct and indirect effects on historic properties within the Corps-identified permit area.

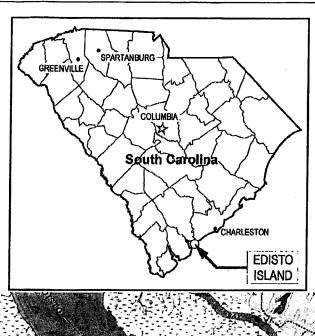
Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for a public hearing shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the activity on the public interest and will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act and, as appropriate, the criteria established under authority of Section 102 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972, as amended. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the project must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the project will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. A permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest. In cases of conflicting property rights, the Corps of Engineers cannot undertake to adjudicate rival claims.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this project. To make this

decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the activity.

If there are any questions concerning this public notice, please contact Ms. Chelsea Bowman at 843-329-8044 or toll free at 1-866-329-8187.



#### **DIRECTIONS FROM SC HWY 17:**

TAKE SC HWY 174 TOWARD EDISTO BEACH. FOLLOW HWY 174 TO PALMETTO BLVD. PROJECT EXTENDS NORTH ~3,300 FEET INTO EDISTO BEACH STATE PARK AND SOUTH ~16,000 FEET, JUST SOUTH OF BILLOW STREET AT POINT ST.

#### **PROJECT LOCATION:**

Latitude: 32° 29' 20" N Longitude: 80° 19' 020" W

